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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT Monday, July 11, 1938

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "NO APPLESAUCE IN CATSUP." News from the Food and Drug Administration United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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Applesauce is applesauce, and catsup is catsup. Furthermore, catsup must be made from tomatoes, and nothing but tomatoes, except for the spices and flavoring materials.

These statements, in today's report from the Food and Drug Administration may bring forth the question: "Whoever thought catsup was made from anything but tomatoes?"

Well, unfortunately, the thought did occur -- to a certain packer who tried to sell, in interstate commerce, a so-called "ketchup" composed of 60 percent tomato and 40 percent applesauce, artificially colored a bright red.

The Food and Drug Administration contended that the product was adulterated, and therefore a violation of the Food and Drugs Act. In Federal Court, witnesses -- including brokers, manufacturers, restaurant keepers and housewives -- agreed that in the United States at least, "ketchup" positively does no include applesauce, and that it must be made from tomatoes if it is to qualify.

The Court ruled in favor of the Government's contention and found the packer guilty, and suspended sentence under the condition that the packer refrai from mixing applesauce or any other adulterant with his "ketchup."

The rest of this report deals with products that were removed from the market during May for violation of the federal Food and Drugs Act. They include a variety of products misrepresented as to grade, size, quality, and identity.

Canned goods seized included canned peas, nearly two thousand cans; tomatoes, nearly 48 thousand cans; cherries, more than 28 thousand cans; and apricots, nearly 30 thousand cans.

Butter seized because of failure to meet the minimum legal requirement of 80 percent butter fat totaled 17,500 pounds.

Also confiscated were 93 bushels of apples, and 95 barrels and 400 sacks of potatoes, misrepresented as to grade. A shipment of 470 baskets of peaches was picked up on federal orders when examination showed all the peaches to be smaller than the pretended size, and in part below the grade claimed.

Other economic violations of the law were represented in the seizure of more than 6,000 jars of short weight peanut butter; more than 6,000 cans of a milk food for infants -- the product was also short in weight; 168 shipping cases of short weight tomato catsup; and nearly 3,000 prints of butter, also short in weight.

Officials seized a mixed lot of baked goods and confections that were in part short weight, in part carrying a considerable understatement of the net weight, and in part made from raw materials that were infested with insects. Forty boxes were seized.

Other seizures during May included over a thousand pounds of frozen egg yolks, containing added egg whites; 126 gallons of so-called olive oil consisting in part of cottonseed oil; seven cases of so-called tomato catsup made in part from apple pulp, and artificially colored -- (this is the catsup mentioned in the beginning of the report); two gallons of so-called pure vanilla, found to be an imitation; nearly 600 bottles of a vanilla flavor low in flavoring value and short in volume; and 45 cases of white meat fish, accepted by purchasers as tuna, but in fact packed from the bonita or yellow-tail, which is not a tuna fish.

Next we come to actions directed against foods adulterated with poisonous contaminating substances. These foods included nearly 545 thousand pounds of maple sirup containing lead; 162 jars of apple butter containing lead; 42 bushels of apples with excessive lead and arsenic spray residue; 2,000 pounds of wheat containing copper carbonate; and 815 boxes of ice cream cones, some labeled with the word "honey," sweetened with saccharin.

Other food seizures during May were based on findings of dirt or decomposition. They involved nearly 4,000 pounds of dried apricots, many pounds of nut meats and candy; strawberry jam, 92 dozen bottles of pancake sirup, and other products "too numerous to mention."

Medicines seized during May included, in part, milk of magnesia short in volume; capsules of sandalwood oil, below standard quality; and gauze bandages, cotton-tipped sticks, and surgical sutures, all items represented as "sterile" or "sterilized" when in fact they contained living bacteria.

Several patent medicines were removed from the market because the claims on their labels were allegedly "false and fraudulent." These included pills, herb tablets, a powder, and a stock remedy.

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